1 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA 2 RICHMOND DIVISION 3 4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 5 v. Criminal Case No.: 6 3:20 CR 2 LARRY BARNES, JR. 7 July 9, 2020 8 COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF PLEA HEARING 9 BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY E. HUDSON UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 10 11 APPEARANCES: Stephen E. Anthony, Esquire OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY 919 East Main Street 13 Suite 1900 Richmond, Virginia 23219 14 Counsel on behalf of the United States 15 16 John B. Mann, Esquire JOHN B. MANN PC 17 4124 E. Parham Road Henrico, Virginia 23228 18 19 Counsel on behalf of the Defendant 20 21 22 23 24 TRACY J. STROH, RPR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER 25 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

1 (The proceeding commenced at 10:16 a.m.) 2 THE COURT: Good morning. 3 MR. ANTHONY: Good morning. MR. MANN: Good morning, Your Honor. 4 5 THE COURT: Before the Court this morning is a 6 plea agreement in this case. I understand that he will 7 enter a plea of guilty to Counts Two and Three of the superseding indictment and the United States will dismiss 8 Count One. 9 Mr. Anthony, let me ask you to put the remainder 10 11 of the plea agreement on the record for me, please, sir. 12 MR. ANTHONY: Yes, sir. Judge, as you've 13 stated, Mr. Barnes is going to plead guilty to Counts Two and Three of the indictment. We have had -- I put into 14 the plea agreement a joint recommendation as to the sentence on Counts Two and Three, which will be 16 17 collectively 15 years. 18 THE COURT: Fifteen years on each to run concurrently; is that correct, Mr. Anthony? 19 20 MR. ANTHONY: Concurrently, but not on each, 21 It would be 15 years on Count Two, 10 years on Judge. 22 Count Three, and they would run concurrently --23 THE COURT: Yes, sir. MR. ANTHONY: -- for a total of 15 years. 24 25 THE COURT: All right.

MR. ANTHONY: Then there is also a waiver of appeal and other standard conditions in the plea agreement. And we also have a statement of facts and exhibit to the plea agreement and a consent order of forfeiture that's been entered by all parties.

THE COURT: All right. I understand you've also filed an amended information establishing a prior conviction, which is a prerequisite to the elevated mandatory minimum; is that correct?

MR. ANTHONY: That's correct, Judge. And the amendment simply changed the statute referencing the definition of serious drug felony to the correct statute from what was in the original information.

THE COURT: And you have agreed that he's entitled to an additional third level decrease for acceptance of responsibility. As you mentioned, the waiver of appeal, and there's a forfeiture agreement, and a separate agreement which is under seal; is that correct?

MR. ANTHONY: It's not under seal, Judge. We do have -- oh, excuse me. I'm sorry. Yes. The exhibit to

THE COURT: Okay.

the plea agreement. Yes.

MR. ANTHONY: Thank you.

THE COURT: Very well. Thank you.

Mr. Mann, if you and your client would come

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   forward, please.
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             Mr. Barnes, if you'd come up to the podium,
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   please.
            Raise your right hand, left hand on the Bible,
   and face the clerk of the clerk.
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              (The defendant was sworn by the clerk.)
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             THE COURT: Mr. Barnes, if you would please give
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  me your full name, sir, and your date of birth.
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             THE DEFENDANT: Larry Barnes, Jr., 10/7/83.
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             THE COURT: You can lower your mask for the
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   purpose of answering questions. It makes it much more
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   audible for the court reporter.
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             Would you repeat that one more time, please?
             THE DEFENDANT: Larry Barnes, Jr., 10/7/1983.
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             THE COURT: You're a citizen of the
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   United States?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
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             THE COURT: How much education do you have,
  Mr. Barnes?
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             THE DEFENDANT: High school diploma.
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             THE COURT: So obviously, you read, write and
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   understand the English language?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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             THE COURT: Now, you're presently under oath.
  Any false statement you make in connection with this
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hearing could be used for you or against you in any

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   further civil or criminal proceedings. Do you understand
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   that?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
             THE COURT: And any false statements you make
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   could result in a perjury prosecution?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
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             THE COURT: Are you under the influence of any
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   drugs, alcohol or medications this morning?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
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             THE COURT: During the last year, have you been
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   treated for any alcohol or drug-related problems?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
             THE COURT: All right. What treatment have you
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  had?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Well, not for the actual
  treatment, but I had to have some drug use in the last
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   year.
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             THE COURT: Okay. My question, though, is
   whether or not you have been treated --
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             THE DEFENDANT: No.
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             THE COURT: -- for any alcohol or drug abuse
   problems?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
             THE COURT: But you're not under the influence
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of any drugs, alcohol or medication today; is that right?

THE COURT: Let me go back and do it a different way here. Are there any questions you have asked him about your case that he's not satisfactorily answered?

THE DEFENDANT: No. Everything is good.

THE COURT: Is there anything you've asked him

to investigate, like finding witnesses or things like

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That's -- I can truthfully say that's one of the few

the legal parts are?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: And he has explained to you that each and every element or legal part of those offenses must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt to convict you? Has he explained that to you?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you understand what the term reasonable doubt means? It's pretty self-explanatory.

> THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Any questions about that?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: I'm sure that Mr. Mann has met with the Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. Anthony, who has outlined to him the evidence that the government would have put on lin your case had you gone to trial. Has he explained to you in detail what the government's evidence would have been in this case?

> THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Have you also explained to him everything you recall about the events that occurred on December the 9th, 2019, in which you -- which led to your 22 being charged with possession with the intent to distribute 1 kilogram or more of heroin and 500 grams or more of cocaine?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. So based upon what you know about the government's evidence and what you have explained to Mr. Mann about your involvement in these offenses, have you and Mr. Mann discussed whether or not you are, in fact, quilty of these two charges? Have you had that discussion? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Have you also discussed with him or has he discussed with you whether you have any legal defenses? In other words, is there any argument or any facts that could be presented that could lead you to be acquitted on these charges? Have you had that decision -that discussion? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: All right. Now, I'm sure that in evaluating your case, Mr. Mann, as an experienced criminal lawyer, has given you his advice as to what he thinks you ought to do, has he not? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Have you had enough time to think about the advice that Mr. Mann gave you? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you need any more time to think

24 about it this morning?

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THE DEFENDANT: No.

1 THE COURT: And what have you decided to do? 2 you want to plead quilty or go to trial? 3 THE DEFENDANT: Plead guilty. THE COURT: And you want to plead quilty because 4 5 you feel you are, in fact, quilty of possession with the intent to distribute 1 kilogram or more of heroin? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 8 THE COURT: And you feel you're, in fact, guilty 9 of possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or 10 more of cocaine hydrochloride; is that correct? 11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 12 THE COURT: And you are the same Larry Barnes, Jr. whose name appears in Count Two and Count 13 Three of the indictment. That's you; is that correct? 14 15 THE DEFENDANT: Correct. THE COURT: Now, the United States has tendered 16 to the Court a document entitled Plea Agreement. It is 17 ten pages in length and on page numbered 10 there appears 18 19 to be your signature. Is that your signature, sir? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 21 THE COURT: Did you read this ten-page document 22 over? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Did you understand it? 24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 25

THE COURT: Is this the complete agreement between you and the United States?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: Is there anything else anybody has promised you or do you expect to receive anything else from anybody in exchange for your plea that's not contained in this ten-page document?

> THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: All right. Let's walk through the agreement and make sure it's complete. Now, you're going to plead guilty to Counts Two and Three, and at sentencing the United States is going to dismiss Count One; is that right?

> THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Now, you understand that the United States has filed what's known as an amended information that elevates the penalties in your case. understand that?

> THE DEFENDANT: Right.

THE COURT: Okay. And you understand that the United States is going to recommend, and your attorney 22 | agrees, that an appropriate sentence in this case on Count Two is 15 years and on Count Three 10 years, and those sentences will run concurrently. In other words, they'll be served at the same time; is that correct?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Correct. THE COURT: The United States has indicated 2 3 they're not going to prosecute you for any other related nonviolent conduct occurring at the same time as these 4 5 other two offenses; is that correct? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Correct. 7 THE COURT: And you've waived your right of 8 appeal? 9 THE DEFENDANT: Correct. 10 THE COURT: And you've signed a forfeiture 11 agreement; is that correct? 12 THE DEFENDANT: Correct. 13 THE COURT: Is there anything else anybody has promised you or do you expect to receive anything else 14 from anybody in exchange for your plea other than what I 15 just read to you? 16 17 THE DEFENDANT: No. 18 THE COURT: Now, has anybody threatened you or forced you any way to enter into your plea today? 19 20 THE DEFENDANT: No. 21 THE COURT: You're doing it freely and voluntarily? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: You've thought about it? 24 25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: You think it's in your best interest?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And you do feel you're guilty; is that correct?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Now, when you enter a plea of guilty, Mr. Barnes, you give up a number of your constitutional rights. And as I go through those with you, if there's any that you'd like to have a more detailed explanation of, let me know and I will pause and give you a more detailed explanation or I'll ask Mr. Mann to do so.

This is a felony case, and you have an absolute constitutional right to have each of these charges tried by a jury. If you ask for a jury trial, 12 randomly selected people from the Richmond area will be summonsed into court to hear and decide your case.

In order to convict you on either or both of these counts, the United States must prove each and every element of that offense beyond a reasonable doubt. If just one juror had a reasonable doubt as to your guilt on either of these counts, you couldn't be convicted of that count by that jury panel. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: If you went to trial, you'd be presumed to be innocent throughout the entire trial unless and until the United States proved your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. You would have no obligation to put on any evidence or to testify, and the fact that you put on no evidence and that you didn't -- or that you didn't testify could not even be considered by the jury in determining your guilt or innocence. As a matter of fact, the jury cannot even discuss the fact that you didn't testify. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

THE COURT: If you went to trial, you would be represented by counsel throughout the entire trial. You would have no obligation to prove your innocence. The government brought the charges. They are obligated to prove them and prove them beyond a reasonable doubt.

If there are any witnesses that you wanted brought in to testify in your case or any exhibits, documents or items you wanted produced in court to help in defending your case, you could get court orders and have those people here or that item brought into court for use by you and your attorney. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: When you enter a plea of guilty, you also give up your right to remain silent, and the

United States could, if it wished, call you as a witness either in court or before a grand jury and ask you questions about your case or the facts or circumstances underlying your case. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And if they did, you'd be required to answer those questions truthfully and fully provided that your answers did not increase the potential punishment you could receive. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you understand also when you enter a plea of guilty, you give up your right to cross-examine the government's witnesses and to confront your accusers. Because when you enter a plea of guilty, you are legally stipulating or agreeing that the United States can prove the charges against you beyond a reasonable doubt.

And keep in mind that once I accept your plea of guilty this morning, there will be no trial in your case.

That plea of guilty is final, and it can't be appealed.

Do you understand you can't appeal a guilty plea? Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Has Mr. Mann explained to you the legal consequences of being a convicted felon?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2 THE COURT: As a convicted felon, federally you 3 give up your right to certain federal programs and entitlements. You also lose your right to possess a 5 firearm, until that right is reinstated, and in Virginia, 6 you lose your right to vote, your right to hold public 7 office, and your right to serve on a jury until the governor of Virginia restores those rights. Do you 8 9 understand that? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Mr. Mann, does your client have any 11 12 other pending matters in any other courts that could be 13 adversely affected by this plea of guilty today? 14 MR. MANN: No, sir, except a violation in this 15 court, supervised release violation. THE COURT: In this court? 16 17 MR. MANN: In this court. 18 THE COURT: All right. 19 Mr. Anthony, are you aware of any pending 20 matters in any other courts that could be adversely 21 affected? 22 MR. ANTHONY: Just the pending violation in this 23 court, Judge. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 24

Now, with respect to Count Two, the possession

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with the intent to distribute 1 kilogram or more of
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   heroin, what is the minimum sentence you face on that
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   charge?
             THE DEFENDANT: The minimum?
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             THE COURT: The minimum.
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             THE DEFENDANT: Fifteen.
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             THE COURT: Fifteen years. And the maximum on
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   that is life. Is that correct, Mr. Anthony?
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             MR. ANTHONY: That's correct, Judge.
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             THE COURT: Okay. You have an agreement for
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   15 years, but you could have potentially received life.
   Do you understand that?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                             Yes.
             THE COURT: And a fine of up to $20 million,
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   supervised release for at least 10 years -- that's like
  being on parole -- and a special assessment of $100 -- do
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   you understand that? -- on Count Two.
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
             THE COURT: On Count Three, it is a sentence of
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  not less than 10 years, maximum of life; a fine of
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   $8 million -- a fine of up to $8 million; at least 8 years
22 of supervised release; and a special assessment of $100.
   Do you understand those are the maximum penalties?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                             Yes.
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             THE COURT: The United States has also presented
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   a document to me entitled Statement of Facts.
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   statement of facts is three pages long, and on page
   numbered 3 there appears to be your signature. Did you
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   sign that, sir?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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             THE COURT: Did you read this statement of facts
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   over?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
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             THE COURT: Did you understand it?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
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             THE COURT: Did you have a chance to discuss it
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   with your attorney?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
             THE COURT: Is what the United States said
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  happened what, in fact, happened? Is this statement of
   facts correct?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
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             THE COURT: Are there any other facts or
   circumstances that you'd like to add to this statement of
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   facts to make it more accurate in your mind?
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             THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
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             THE COURT: Have you and your attorney gone over
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   where your case comes out on the Federal Criminal
24 Sentencing Guidelines?
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             THE DEFENDANT: We haven't came up with no
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guidelines yet.

THE COURT: All right. Even though you have an agreed recommendation, it's important that you understand the sentencing guidelines in this case.

Have you gone over them, Mr. Mann, with him?

MR. MANN: Judge, I have not gone over them

because we were focused on the mandatory minimum that he would receive.

THE COURT: All right. Do you feel the necessity to do that in this case?

MR. MANN: No, sir, Judge.

THE COURT: Mr. Anthony?

MR. ANTHONY: Judge, I think the Court should go through the explanation of the sentencing guidelines.

THE COURT: I intend to go through the mechanics of applying the guidelines and what sentence, but what the specific guidelines are for this case, I don't have them computed because I don't normally do that.

MR. ANTHONY: Right.

THE COURT: If you all do and would like to put them on the record, you certainly can do that.

MR. ANTHONY: I don't see the need to put them on the record, Judge.

THE COURT: I don't either with a specific recommendation.

MR. ANTHONY: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: All right. In deciding whether or not to accept the recommendation, which appears to me to be a very reasonable recommendation on the facts of this case, I have to review a number of statutory factors which guide my hand in imposing sentence in the case.

I, first of all, will consider the nature and circumstances of the offense, what the case is all about. I then turn to your personal history and characteristics. That I will get through a presentence report. At the close of this hearing, a U.S. probation officer will be preparing a presentence report. They'll come by and visit you and get your background and history.

That report will be the picture I have of you at sentencing. It will cover the nature and circumstances of the offense. It will cover your upbringing, your education, your employment history, your military background, if any, your prior criminal history, the family obligations that you have, medical conditions that you have, drug use. Total picture. That's the picture I have of you for the purpose of sentencing is what is contained in the presentence report.

Once I get that, I then consider what type of sentence would be sufficient but not longer than necessary to reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect

for the law, provide for deterrence and provide for just punishment.

I also look at any restitution obligations there may be in the case, although I don't think there's any restitution required in this case. I look at what type of sentence other individuals with similar backgrounds, committing similar offenses have received to make sure that there's uniformity within the system. I consider what educational, vocational, medical and family obligations you may have, and I integrate that into my calculation to decide what sentence is appropriate.

Now, keep in mind that even though I have to be guided by the sentencing guidelines, I do have the authority to vary your guidelines upward or downward to accommodate aggravating or mitigating circumstances. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: But I believe that the sentence agreed upon by your attorney and the United States is an appropriate one in this case, and unless there's something in the presentence report that probably your attorney and the government are unaware of that makes me change my mind, I'm inclined to accept that recommendation. I'm sure Mr. Mann has explained to you that most federal detainees are required to serve 85 percent of the sentence

Yes.

that they receive. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT:

THE COURT: We mentioned earlier that you've waived your right of appeal. Ordinarily, a person convicted of a felony in U.S. District Court would have a right to appeal the sentence they have received to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit if they felt

that the guidelines were improperly calculated or the sentence was unreasonable. You have waived that right of appeal. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: The United States, on the other hand, if they felt that the sentence I imposed was — first of all, that the guidelines were improperly calculated by the Court or the sentence imposed was unreasonable, they would technically have a right to appeal. But once again, you have waived your right of appeal. Any question about that?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: All right. Now, is there anything, Mr. Barnes, that has occurred this morning that you did not understand?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Are there any questions you'd like to ask me about your plea of guilty or any constitutional

rights you have waived this morning before I accept your plea?

> THE DEFENDANT: No.

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THE COURT: All right, then. To the charge of possession with the intent to distribute 1 kilogram or more of heroin, as charged in Count Two of the superseding indictment in this case, what is your plea, sir, guilty or not guilty?

> THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

> THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

THE COURT: And to the charge of possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine hydrochloride, as charged in Count Three of the indictment, what is your plea, sir, guilty or not guilty?

THE COURT: All right. Based on your pleas of guilty, your responses to my questions, the government's statement of facts, I find your plea of quilty as voluntarily, knowingly and intelligently entered, with an understanding of the nature of the charges, the consequences of the pleas, and the penalty provisions that you face.

I further find that the statement of facts presented by the United States -- and you've agreed that 24 lit's accurate -- forms an independent factual basis for your plea of guilty. I also find that you're competent

and capable of entering a plea of guilty today and that your plea of guilty is entered after thoroughly consulting with your attorney.

Now, I'm confident that Mr. Mann, being an experienced criminal lawyer, has gone over with you the basic questions I'm going to ask today, but my question of you is has anybody instructed you how to answer my questions or are your answers your own?

THE DEFENDANT: The answers are my own.

THE COURT: All right. Then I'll accept your plea of guilty and find you guilty of possession with the intent to distribute 1 kilogram or more of heroin, as charged in Count Two, and possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, as charged in Count Three.

Now, no sentence will be imposed today. Your case will be referred to the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a presentence report in this case.

Ms. Pizzini, what date does this case go to for sentencing?

THE CLERK: October 30th, Your Honor, at 9:30.

THE COURT: Is that compatible with your

23 calendar, Mr. Mann?

MR. MANN: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Mr. Anthony?

1 MR. ANTHONY: Yes, sir. 2 THE COURT: All right. Your case will be 3 continued until 9:30 a.m. on October the 30th for a hearing on the presentence report and for the imposition 5 of sentence. 6 As I mentioned to you, a U.S. probation officer 7 will be coming by to talk to you. The probation officer will be preparing a presentence report, which is the picture I have of you at sentencing. Okay? Now, I want you to be fully cooperative with the U.S. probation 11 officer. Whatever he or she tells you to do to help him 12 or her prepare the presentence report, you must follow 13 their instructions. Do you understand that? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: The instructions they give you are a direct order of this Court. 16 17 THE CLERK: Your Honor. THE COURT: Yes. 18 19 THE CLERK: The revocation hearing will also be 20 held at that same time? 21 THE COURT: That's right. There is a revocation -- I'm sorry. We will conduct the revocation 23 hearing at the same time.

Thank you, Ms. Pizzini, for reminding me of that.

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1 Any reason why I shouldn't enter this agreed 2 forfeiture order? 3 MR. MANN: No, sir. THE COURT: Here are all the documents, Becky. 4 5 Anything further today, Mr. Mann? 6 MR. MANN: No, sir, Judge. 7 THE COURT: Mr. Anthony, anything further? 8 MR. ANTHONY: No, sir. 9 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Barnes, you're remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal. are to be back in this courtroom at 9:30 a.m. on October 11 the 30th for a hearing on the presentence report and for 12 13 the imposition of sentence and for a hearing on the petition alleging you violated the conditions of your 14 15 supervised release. In your custody, Marshal. 16 17 Court will stand in recess. 18 MR. MANN: I have some paperwork he needs to 19 sign for probation. So --20 THE COURT: Okay. Fine. Thank you. 21 (The proceeding concluded at 10:44 a.m.) REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 22 23 I, Tracy J. Stroh, OCR, RPR, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at large, and whose 24 commission expires September 30, 2023, Notary Registration

Number 7108255, do hereby certify that the pages contained herein accurately reflect the stenographic notes taken by me, to the best of my ability, in the above-styled action.

Given under my hand this 18th day of January 2022.

/s/ Tracy J. Stroh, RPR